

# FLIGHT JACKET



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Marines with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, wait for a bus to take them to their barracks after work near the flight line at Al Asad, Iraq, Feb. 1. Nearing the end of their deployment, they leave Iraq with valuable experiences and a greater appreciation for their lives back home. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*

## HMLA-169 Marines look back on experiences in Iraq

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq — Officially arriving in Iraq Aug. 5, 2004, the Marines of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, are now nearing the end of a successful deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While some members of the squadron have already begun to depart for home, others continue to fly or support combat missions for a few more weeks.

For many in the squadron, they leave Iraq with valuable experiences and a greater appreciation for their lives back home.

"I have learned a lot of things since I got here," said Lance Cpl. James A. Stanton, intelligence analyst, HMLA-169, who is at the end of his first deployment. "Before I came to Iraq I was new to the squadron. I did not know a lot of people and being out here has allowed me to make a lot of new friends. I have also been able to learn a lot about my job, especially briefing and

analyzing intelligence products."

Stanton said he was also able to fly with some of the squadron's pilots to take some aerial reconnaissance photographs.

"I had a lot of fun being able to fly and assist with collecting intelligence for the squadron," said the Mitchell, Neb., native. "Overall I had a good experience over here. There are always the bad things too, like the chow and port-a-johns, but for the most part it was a good experience for me."

For other Marines who have deployed before, their time in Iraq was also beneficial.

"This is my second deployment with the squadron, and I have to say this is the better of the two," said Pfc. Richard T. Gillett, embarkation specialist, HMLA-169, from Forks, Wash. "I have had a lot of good experiences out of both of deployments, to include becoming really efficient at my job, meeting new people from different countries and seeing just how good we really have it back home."

Gillett said he also has had his share of bad experiences, like the sand storms, long work hours, and the restroom facilities, to

name a few.

"I'll be returning home here shortly and have lots of good stories and memories to share with family and friends," said Gillett. "Being here has really helped me realize how much I care for them."

Squadron leaders are also going home with an overwhelming sense of personal and unit achievement.

"It has been a true honor to serve here in Iraq in the midst of all of these warrior Marines and Soldiers too," said Maj. Glen G. Butler, executive officer, HMLA-169, and a native of West Chester, Pa. "From the 'studs' I have flown with daily, to the 'unsung heroes' who work behind the scenes day after day fixing our aircraft, keeping our administrative and logistics requirements up to speed (and doing so without complaining, despite not having one single day off in over six months), the caliber of Marines in our Corps is tremendous."

Butler added that their combat performance has been nothing less than inspirational and is something that he will never forget.

## Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



**Proficiency  
through  
competition  
pg 7**



**Sailors  
get  
pinned  
pg 8**



# Combating driver fatigue

Story by Perry Lockhart

LIFELines

Liberty call should not be a call to death. Unfortunately, too many Marines and Sailors fall into death's hands every year in pursuit of liberty and leave. More Sailors and Marines die or are injured each year in off-duty vehicle accidents than by any other means, according to Department of Navy statistics.

At every safety stand down, every pre-holiday command brief, and every liberty call, commanders stress the dangers of the road. They talk about dangers as obvious as drinking and driving, driving in bad weather, and speeding. They encourage safe driving habits and making sure the driver gets enough rest before venturing out.

The nature of military service is to work through exhaustion and to accomplish the mission — whatever it takes. Marines and Sailors become used to working long, arduous hours with little sleep. But when they attempt to translate that into a rush to liberty in some far-off place, they end up risking their lives and the lives of others.

## Asleep at the Wheel

One in five Americans has dozed off while driving, according to the American Automobile Association. Eighty

percent of Americans falsely believe they can predict when they are about to fall asleep. Researchers report that tired drivers can fall asleep without warning, often sinking into short five-second sleep bursts called micro-sleeps. In five seconds, at 55 mph, a car will travel more than the length of a football field.

Driving tired is as deadly as driving after drinking. According to the American Automobile Association, drivers who stay awake for 17 hours show the same kind of symptoms as a person with a blood-alcohol level of .05. After 24 hours of sustained wakefulness, performance is equal to a blood-alcohol level of .10, which is considered legally drunk in all 50 states.

## How to Stay Alert

When liberty call sounds, the temptation to get behind the wheel is great. If you are tired, though, it is much better and safer to get some rest before heading out. But if you have to drive while tired, here are some tips to keep you alert.

Avoid taking medication, such as cold remedies, that make you drowsy.

Sip a drink containing caffeine, such as coffee or cola.

See **FATIGUE** page 3

# DoD seeks people with language skills

Story by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — If you speak a foreign language or have the desire and aptitude to learn one, Uncle Sam wants you.

The Defense Department is on the lookout for people with language skills to support not only current operations, but future ones as well, according to Gail McGinn, deputy undersecretary of defense for plans.

And just as important as language skills, she said, is an understanding of other countries' geographies, cultures and people.

The military has the greatest language and cultural expertise in four primary languages: German, French, Spanish and Russian, McGinn said during an interview with the Pentagon Channel. But when the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, thrust the United States into the Global War on Terror, the department simply didn't have enough linguists fluent in Arabic or in Dari and Pashtu, the languages of Afghanistan, she said. Similarly, she said, DoD has come up short on linguists for other areas of the world that have attracted increased U.S. interest during the Global War on Terror.

McGinn said the revelation has been described as a "Sputnik moment." When the Soviets launched Sputnik, the first satellite, in 1957, the United States quickly began promoting math, science and language in its schools so it could play catch-up.

Similarly, after 9/11, the United States recognized its language deficiencies for certain parts of the world. "The Global War on Terror ... made us realize that we need these capabilities, and we need

people to have these skills," she said.

Language and cultural skills help servicemembers interact with the local people, McGinn said. Civil affairs specialists and interpreters deployed throughout Iraq are demonstrating the value of those skills daily as they interact with local citizens and their leaders.

But if more servicemembers had language skills, the operational payoff could be tremendous, she pointed out. For example, when coalition troops were headed north toward Baghdad at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, what if the local people had information they wanted to share? And what if the U.S. troops wanted to warn them about something, or to diffuse a situation?

"I think you can see, just from that set of activities, how important it is to have the ability to communicate in the language of the country that you're in," McGinn said.

To help boost language skills within the military, McGinn said, DoD has launched or plans to introduce several new initiatives:

— Increased the Defense Language Institute's budget by more than \$50 million to go toward curriculum development and improved foreign language testing, to develop more "crash courses" for developing troops, and to begin training students to higher levels of proficiency.

— Received legislative authority to increase foreign language proficiency pay for military linguists from the current high of \$300 a month to a top rate of \$1,000.

— Pays stipends to college students involved in regional studies and language studies who agree

See **LINGUIST** page 5



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## MIRAMARKS

"How can the Marine Corps reduce its off-duty vehicle injuries?"



### SGT. STEPHANIE D. QUICK

Administration Clerk  
MWSS-373

"Concentrate on driving instead of talking on cell phones. Also, make sure whatever someone is driving that they have the proper training with that vehicle."

### CPL. JOSEPH VINKLAREK

Staff Secretary  
MWHS-3

"It's common sense to wear your seat belt because seat belts save lives."



### SGT. STEVE CRAHAN

NCOIC Marine Corps Water Survival  
H&HS

"By creating a better alcohol rehabilitation program to encourage people not to drink and drive."



## FLIGHT JACKET

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Commanding General  
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



**BRIG. GEN. CARL B. JENSEN**  
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Commanding General  
MCAS Miramar

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**2nd Lt. Paul L. Croom II**  
Internal Information Officer

**Gunnery Sgt. Barry L. Pawelek**  
Public Affairs Chief

**Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr.**  
Internal Information Chief

**Cpl. T.D. Smith**  
Layout



Marines at Al Asad, Iraq, Feb. 2 observed a moment of silence for the four fallen Marines of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. The four Marines were killed when their CH-53E Super Stallion crashed Jan. 26 near Ar Rutbah, Iraq. Hundreds of Marines attended the memorial service at the base theater. **Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte**

## 3rd MAW holds memorial service at Al Asad for lost HMH-361 Marines

Story by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq — Third Marine Aircraft Wing Marines gathered at the base theater to mourn the loss of four of their own Feb. 2.

The four Marine aircrew members were conducting a troop transport mission of 26 Marines and one Sailor from the 1st Marine Division when their CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter crashed near Ar Rutbah, Iraq, Jan. 26.

The Marines belonged to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.: Capt. P. Christopher Alaniz, 29, born in Greenly, Colo.; Capt. Lyle L. Gordon, 29, a native of Midlothian, Texas; Staff Sgt. Dexter S. Kimble, 29, born in Houston; and Lance Cpl. Tony L. Hernandez, 23, born in New Braunfels, Texas.

The commanding officer of HMH-361, Lt. Col. A. L. Winters, gave his remarks about his Marines early in the ceremony.

The four fallen Marines “all represent the best qualities of their generation and the intangibles that make America the greatest nation on Earth,” said Winters. “These four warriors gave their lives in an effort to ensure those around them would live in a safer and a better world. We need to remember each as a true

professional and as a great man.”

Four Marines who best knew the men who died stood by after Winter’s remarks to give brief eulogies reminding others of the good men who were lost.

Alaniz was remembered by his friends as a warrior first, with a future as a forward air controller, an elite group of aviators who serve alongside Marine ground troops and act as liaisons between the ground troops and their air support. It would have been his way of doing what he believed in, according to Capt. Rudy Hernandez, a 35-year-old supply officer from Dallas.

“Chris had some truly admirable traits. The first is that he always stood for what was right,” said Hernandez, who had been Alaniz’s friend since joining the Marines. “Some people will turn the other cheek when having to deal with doing the right thing or being unjustly treated, but not Chris.”

Gordon will always be remembered by his friend, Capt. Michael Saddler, a 29-year-old squadron adjutant from Cedar Hill, Texas, as a loyal Texan and selfless friend with a good attitude.

“That was the kind of guy Lyle was; genuine and true. A real friend that I knew I would have for life,” stated Saddler, who shared a career nearly identical to Gordon. “We would walk into a room and there he would be with his big old Texas grin, just

smiling. Of course that smile was contagious. Lyle will be remembered for his tight Wrangler (jeans), his pearl snap shirts and for driving the biggest truck of anyone I knew.”

Kimble was remembered by Staff Sgt. Wallace Virgin, a 27-year-old flightline mechanic from Miami, as a husband, father, son and leader of Marines.

“Numerous times the day would start off in a down hill slump and all he would do to change that was develop some sort of off the wall philosophy,” said Virgin, who worked with Kimble in Iraq. “Very few people have the ‘know-how’ to make something so bad, so good. He kept life interesting. No matter how hard it got or how much you wanted to give up, Staff Sgt. Kimble always had something uplifting to say.”

Hernandez was remembered as a true Texas patriot, with an unwavering upbeat outlook on life.

“I think about his smile ... and it would always seem to rub off on you. Tony had many admirable traits, but the one that sticks out the most was his ability to look past his problems and find a brighter side in any situation,” said Cpl. Robert Davis, a 21-year-old CH-53E Super Stallion crew chief from Los Angeles. “No matter what life dealt him, he would stick to his guns and fire back with laughter and happiness until the worst was over.”

### FATIGUE

continued from page 2

The caffeine will only act for a short time, though, and you may become drowsy very quickly when it wears off. If you are seriously sleep-deprived, you may still suffer from micro-sleep, with deadly results.

Pull off to the side of the road and stop when you feel tired. Go to a rest area, well-lit exit, or gas station. Take a short catnap if necessary.

Do some stretching exercises to stimulate blood flow to your brain and to relax your muscles.

Continually scan your surroundings. Check your mirrors often. Staring at one spot can hypnotize you into sleep.

Keep the temperature in the car cool. Warm air can cause you to fall asleep easier.

Open a window for fresh air.

Strike up a conversation with a passenger. Music or conversation can help you stay alert.

While these tips may help you in the short term, the best advice about driving tired is — don’t.

# Budget emphasizes present, future warfighting capabilities

By Donna Miles

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush's \$419.3 billion defense budget request for fiscal year 2006 reflects Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's four basic priorities: defeating global terrorism, restructuring the armed forces and global defense structure, developing and fielding advanced warfighting capabilities, and taking care of U.S. forces.

A senior defense official unveiled details of the proposed budget, which reflects a 4.8 percent increase over the 2005 budget and a 41 percent increase in DoD's budget since 2001.

The new budget continues to support the global war on terror and to provide those "in uniform with the tools they need to fight this Global War on Terror," the official told Pentagon reporters.

"But it is also important that we are transforming the way we fight wars, and that includes new organizational strategies and realigning our forces and bases," the official said. "And in the area of building joint capabilities for future threats, we are applying the lessons from today's operations to strengthen our knowledge and joint capabilities for the future."

And although it was the last point listed on the briefing slide, the official said the effort to "take care of our forces" is actually the most important of all in the proposed budget. "People are our most important asset, and we continue to provide significant benefits and pay for our people," she said.

Funding to support the Global War on Terror is a key part of the budget proposal, and the official said the centerpiece of that is a \$48 billion commitment to restructure the Army's ground forces into brigade combat teams to create a more modular force. A military official told reporters this ongoing effort will increase the Army's combat capability by about 30 percent and already is showing a clear payoff in relieving the force during current operations in Iraq.

In support of this priority, the budget also:

Accelerates the restructuring of the Marine Corps to

add more combat and support units.

Provides \$2.1 billion in additional funding, for a total of \$9.9 billion, to increase the chemical and biological detection and protections for U.S. forces.

Funds homeland security activities, including Operation Noble Eagle, routine combat air patrols and emergency preparedness and response activities.

Increases funding for special operations forces, to \$4.1 billion, to add 1,200 new special operations troops and four SEAL platoons, as well as other initiatives.

Provides additional funding to improve intelligence capabilities and intelligence-gathering systems, including the space-based radar and secure communications platforms.

Seeks legislative authorities that support the Commander's Emergency Response Program and other programs in direct support of the war on terrorism.

The proposed budget also reflects continuing efforts to restructure U.S. forces, global and stateside basing, and DoD management and support activities. At the same time, it supports initiatives to better manage current demands on the force.

In support of this priority, the budget:

Provides continued funding to restructure Army ground forces and to add combat and support units to the Marine Corps to increase its warfighting power and reduce stress on its high-demand forces.

Increases the Navy's combat power by supporting the Fleet Response Plan, replacing aging ships and transitioning to a new generation of more capable ships.

Supports the continued restructuring of 10 air and space expeditionary forces that enable the Air Force to better support U.S. combatant commanders worldwide.

Helps manage demand on the force by rebalancing high- and low-demand capabilities within the active and reserve components and returning military personnel in civilian-like jobs to combat and core defense functions.

Restructures the U.S. global defense posture and streamlines DoD bases and facilities "to help us be where we need to be" for current and future operations, rather than Cold War-era ones, the official said.

The fiscal year 2006 budget proposal reflects ongoing

efforts to develop and field new military capabilities — with an emphasis on joint capabilities — to counter future threats, the official said. In support of this priority, the budget:

Continues funding to develop, test and field missile defense technologies to defeat ballistic missiles and adds five ground-based interceptors.

Supports Army modernization through the Future Combat Systems Program and the Army Aviation Modernization Plan.

Promotes Navy shipbuilding to continue the shift to a new generation of ships and funds four new ships.

Funds advanced aircraft to increase U.S. capabilities and replace aging systems. This includes funding for the F/A-22 Raptor, Navy F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, Joint Strike Fighter, C-17 transport aircraft and tanker replacement.

Continues funding to develop and to field intelligence and intelligence-gathering capabilities.

Promotes development and procurement of unmanned systems, including Joint Unmanned Combat Air Systems and Global Hawk and Predator unmanned aerial vehicles.

The budget also maintains President Bush's commitment of supporting U.S. military forces and their families, which the senior defense official called "our nation's most important defense asset." The proposed budget:

Funds a 3.1 percent hike in military base pay and a 2.3 percent increase in civilian pay.

Increases funding for the Defense Health Program.

Provides a 4 percent increase in the basic allowance for housing and eliminates more inadequate family housing units.

Expands healthcare coverage under TRICARE for National Guard and Reserve members before and after mobilization.

Provides up to 36 months of educational benefits for reserve component members who have been mobilized.

Increases maintenance funds for facilities used by DoD military and civilian employees.



Lance Cpl. Richard Libby, a machine gunner attached to 5th Civil Affairs Group, sports a pair of ballistic eyewear during training. "They're very comfortable and don't squeeze your head," said Libby. Photo by Lance Cpl. Edward L. Mennenga

## Ballistic eyewear saves eyes

Story by Lance Cpl. Edward L. Mennenga

*II MEF Combat Correspondent*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — It can be argued that one of the most important senses a warrior has is his sight. But how do you protect that sight in a harsh combat environment plagued with dust, allergens, and enemies who use blast weapons such as mortars and improvised explosive devices?

Protective eyewear or "eye armor" is playing an important role in protecting servicemembers against combat and non-combat related eye injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan. Military doctors and ophthalmologists serving in combat support hospitals in Iraq are reporting that approximately 10 percent of all American troops they treat for battle-related wounds have some form of eye damage, almost always associated with other blast injuries, according to the February 2005 issue of *Ophthalmology Management* magazine.

"Typically the injuries are related to rockets, mortars, or improvised explosive devices," said Army Maj. Michael Cohen, a doctor of osteopathy currently serving in a combat sup-

port hospital near Mosul, Iraq. "The injuries are related to shrapnel and dirt - a lot of penetrating trauma. Probably the most common battle eye injury is a corneal foreign body/corneal abrasion."

Marines are now being issued different brands of ballistic eyewear as part of an advanced user evaluation, said Col. Edward D. Daniel, Marine Corps Systems Command Liaison Officer, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. The eyewear is anti-glare and protects against ballistic-related injuries. Some eyewear also has inserts for servicemembers who need glasses.

"They've all been extremely effective against ballistic threats," said Daniel.

The eyewear has been so effective that Maj. Gen. Stephen Johnson, commanding general, II MEF (forward), has mandated that the eyewear be made available to his Marines.

"I have seen pairs of Wileys (ballistic eyewear) destroyed and yet the soldier has sustained no eye injury at all," said Cohen. "I cannot tell you how helpful that is to us. This eyewear is definitely a force multiplier."

See **BALLISTIC** page 9

# Schools reopen in Fallujah

## USMC Press Release

*I MEF Public Affairs Office*

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. Marines from the 4th Civil Affairs Group of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force marked the reopening of schools in Fallujah Feb. 5 by delivering school supplies to children, who returned to class for the first time since Operation Al Fajr was launched to liberate the city from insurgents in November 2004.

Members of 4th CAG greeted approximately 70 students at the Al Jumariyah School and the Abu Jafr Mansoor School near the Old Bridge with boxes of pen-

cils, paper, crayons and books.

The four other schools reopened by the Ministry of Education included Ibn Khaldoun Secondary School for Boys, Tabarek Intermediate School in the Al Mualameen Quarter, Islamic Studies Secondary School, and That al Salalsel.

The director of the Ministry of Education reported that roughly 10 percent of all students reported to school yesterday. He explained that more would return throughout the week after residents received information regarding the school openings.

The ministry headquarters will be housed at the Al Jumariyah School and bids are being solicited for general renovation for the schools that opened Feb. 5.

Servicemembers from 4th CAG continue to support the interim Iraqi government and the various Ministries as they rebuild and resettle Fallujah.

# Iraqis provide tips

## USMC Press Release

*I MEF Public Affairs Office*

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND, Iraq — Progress continues in Al Anbar province, as Iraqi security forces consistently demonstrate their improving capabilities and citizens continue to provide information to Iraqi and U.S. forces.

The 82nd Iraqi Intervention Force seized a large weapons cache in northwest Fallujah Feb. 6. The weapons cache consisted of 34 Rocket-Propelled Grenade rounds, 10 RPG launchers, 33 rifle grenades, 28 hand grenades, materials for making improvised explosive devices and a large quantity of small arms ammunition. The unit reported the cache was behind a false wall.

At approximately 9 a.m. Feb. 6, an Iraqi citizen informed an Iraqi Intervention Force unit about ordnance in a house in southern Fallujah. The Iraqi soldiers passed the information to U.S. Marines, who investigated the tip. Marine explosive ordnance disposal experts discovered two Russian 250-pound bombs, three RPG rounds, and an AK-47 assault rifle. While at the scene, the Marines were approached by children who told them of additional ordnance that was located 450 meters from the site. Marines discovered three 100mm rounds, an RPG round and four grenades at the second site.

From Feb. 6 to 7, Marines and Soldiers from the 1st Marine Division of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force detained 18 suspected insurgents and seized several weapons caches during operations throughout the Al Anbar province.

## LINGUIST

continued from page 2

to seek jobs within the U.S. national security establishment, through the National Security Education Program.

— Established the National Flagship Language Initiative, in which colleges and universities offer advanced language training in Arabic, Korean, Chinese and Russian to students who agree to work for the national security establishment.

— Initiated a pilot program within the Army encouraging Iraqi Americans to join the Individual Ready Reserve, providing a pool of Arabic linguists, ready when needed. Of more than 200 people recruited through the program, 44 have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and another 19 are awaiting deployment.

— Will survey members of the current force, both military and civilian, to determine who has language skills that could prove useful in current or future operations.

— Issued a white paper encouraging the United States to promote the emphasis placed on language skills nationwide.

— Promoted the development of technology with language and translation software.

— Is considering establishing a database in which American citizens can register their language skills or sign up for a civilian linguist reserve corps that could contribute to national language requirements as needed.

McGinn said these and other initiatives under consideration will help the United States better position itself for future military operations, wherever in the world they occur. “We’re working on a lot of those initiatives to try to ... anticipate the unanticipated,” she said.

She sees the new initiatives as solid first steps in changing the importance DoD places on foreign language skills.

“This is really more than just finding linguists and people with the ability to speak languages,” she said. “It’s a transformation in the way language is viewed in the Department of Defense — how it is valued, how it is developed and how it is employed.”

Integrating foreign language and regional expertise into the military mindset will have far-reaching implications, McGinn said, affecting “the way we conduct operations and the way we conduct ourselves in the world.”

# 3rd MAW provides security, transport

Story by Cpl. Joel A. Chaverri

*3rd MAW Combat Correspondent*

AL ASAD, Iraq — The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing played a vital yet largely unseen role in support of the recent Iraqi elections.

Transportation of election materials and workers throughout the Al Anbar province was largely the responsibility of the 3rd MAW team.

“We were tasked with moving Iraqi elections workers and ballots to their polling stations,” said Maj. Rod A. Funk, operations officer, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd MAW.

VMGR-452 took extra precautions to guarantee a safe mission in the face of insurgents who threatened to sabotage the elections.

“We planned for a worse case scenario,” said Funk, a 40-year-old native of Lancaster, Pa. “We even trained ‘provisional air marshal teams’ to be security for the election workers.”

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 with their AH-1W Super Cobras also helped ensure safe elections by providing aerial security in the northwestern areas of the province.

“We were responsible for the security of numerous towns surrounding (Camp) Korean

Village,” said Capt. Jeff J. Meisenger, pilot, HMLA-367. “We try to make the ground guy’s job as easy as possible.”

Marines and Iraqi National Guardsmen already had a lot to worry about on the ground, so the added security in the air eases some of the stress.

“We can cover a lot of ground really fast and the Cobras can be pretty intimidating,” said Meisenger, a 36-year-old native of Sugar Grove, Ill. “It’s a show of force to deter the insurgents from doing anything the day of elections.”

The importance of the day required a level of commitment from the Marines not called for on a daily basis.

“Our Marines have worked lot of extra hours,” said Gunnery Sgt. James R. Keller, a 24-year-old native of Bogalusa, La., with HMLA-367. “They constantly have to be on alert for anything that might happen.”

Even with the long hours and apparent danger threatened by insurgents in their intimidation campaign to deter voters, for many, the payoff of a successful election made it well worth the effort.

“The election workers were so happy to be with the Marines when we flew them to their election sites,” said Lt. Col. Bradley S. James, commanding officer, VMGR-452. “It was satisfying to see the happiness on their faces.”



Workers with the Independent Electoral Commission Iraq unload from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter Jan. 29 at Camp Korean Village, Iraq. The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing provided aerial transport of election materials and workers during Iraq's first free election in more than 50 years. *Photo by Cpl. Joel A. Chaverri*



Silhouetted by the setting sun, a CH-46 Sea Knight with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, stands ready with engines running on the flight line at Al Asad, Iraq, Jan. 26. Nearing the end of their deployment, the Marines of HMM-365 are leaving Iraq with a sense of great accomplishment. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*

## HMM-365 Marines lead during successful deployment

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

*3rd MAW Combat Correspondent*

AL ASAD, Iraq — Quickly approaching the end of their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, the Marines of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, are preparing to

return home with a real sense of accomplishment.

Day and night, HMM-365 played a vital role in the success of the overall 3rd MAW mission with recent operations supporting the successful Iraqi elections Jan. 30.

“This squadron has the amazing ability to come together as one to accomplish any

# Marines hone skills through competition

Story by Cpl. Joel A. Chaverri

3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq — Marines with Security Battalion, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, found new ways to enjoy weapons training through a marksmanship competition here during the week of Jan. 24-28.

Hosted by Range Operations and Training, the competition covered every weapon system from the M-9 Beretta pistol to the M-2 .50 caliber machine gun.

“We wanted to add some spark to the end of the deployment,” said 45-year-old Yorba Linda, Calif., native Master Gunnery Sgt. Ronnie M. Mejia, operations chief, ROT. “The last thing we wanted was for the Marines to become complacent getting so close to leaving, so we gave them something to look forward to.”

Marines were judged by their accuracy on the range and their ability to efficiently break down and reassemble the weapons.

Although the Marines have experience with the weapons used, the competition added incentive to keep up their proficiency.

“The training we do is to keep everybody sharp,” said Mejia. “This competition is just more (incentive) to be better at what we do.”

Six companies from Security Battalion competed in the event. Companies A, B, F, P, K, and Headquarters and Service, each had two of their best shooters represent them in the event.

“Everyone who thought they were the best volunteered,” said Cpl. Eldred E. Franklin, 23-year-old Los Angeles native and communications operator with H&S Co. “Now that I’m out here and see the competition, I’m not so sure that I’ll win, but whether I win or lose, I’m having fun.”



Marines from six different companies within Security Battalion, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, fire the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon during a marksmanship competition held at Al Asad, Iraq, Jan. 25. The weeklong competition hosted by Security Battalion covered every weapon system from the M-9 pistol to the M-2 .50 caliber machine gun. *Photo by Cpl. Joel A. Chaverri*

mission that is tasked,” said Cpl. Jason W. Tracoma, operations chief and training non-commissioned officer, HMM-365, and a native of Powhatan, Va.

Proud of their achievements, other Marines in the squadron are going home knowing they did their jobs to the best of their ability.

“The past six months have been outstanding,” said Lance Cpl. Jason Martinez, avionics technician, HMM-365, from Salem, Ore., who is on his second deployment to Iraq. “We have done a lot compared to our last deployment over here. We’ve flown between 600-700 hours a month, which is about three to four times what we normally do per month.”

Supporting everything from VIPs to troop movement and transportation of passengers and cargo, including movement of election materials and monitors, the “Blue Knights” have let nothing come between them and their mission accomplishment.

“Even up to this point we have managed to make mission, launching pretty much all of our aircraft out every night for the last three days,” added Martinez. “We have never dropped a mission due to maintenance. That is truly exceptional.”

Driving through the daily routine of hard work and time off, Martinez said the second time here has been easier for him because he is now more used to being away from friends and family for long periods of time.

“Living in tight quarters with a lot of people and knowing that a lot of your basic liberties are going to be gone for a while will help you get through matters,” said

Martinez.

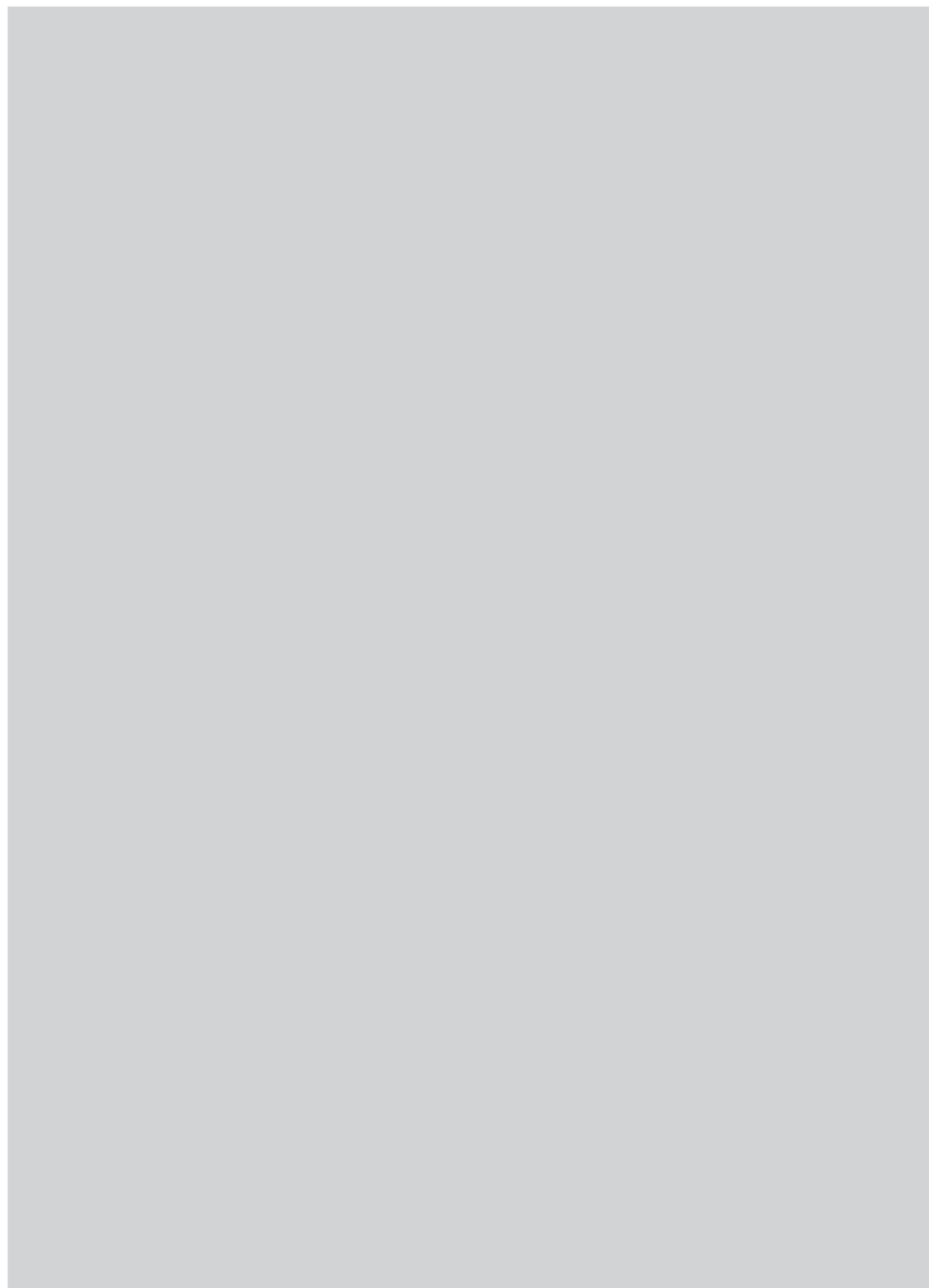
Working as a team and laying a foundation for HMM-365’s success, the squadron’s experienced NCOs have helped their fellow Marines get through the daily deployment routine.

“One of the things I have passed on to others is to do your job and keep your head down,” said Cpl. Michael A. Hoopai, avionics electrician, HMM-365, from Madison, Ind., who has been with the squadron for almost three years. “This is also my third deployment and my second time to Iraq so I have learned a lot that others have benefited from, but still I find myself learning more from others as well.”

More senior NCOs said in addition to passing down lessons learned, much of their success could not have been possible without a daily regimen of activities, as well as contact with friends and family back home.

“It’s important to relax too and read, work out or just do something to decompress before the next work day,” said Staff Sgt. Clarence A. Brewer, avionics staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, HMM-365, and a native of Gainesville, Ga., who is near the end of his third deployment in four years. “Emailing with friends and family a lot and getting tons of packages too helps keeps our spirits up. The support we have had from people back home has simply been great.”

For those about to deploy for the first time, Brewer said, while they might not see the end product, the work they do right here on base is good for the whole country of Iraq.





Sailors with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing earned their Fleet Marine Force Warfare device pin while deployed to Al Asad, Iraq. Sailors earn the right to wear the pin through an intense series of tests on Marine Corps fundamentals. *Photo by Cpl. Joel A. Chaverri*

# Sailors earn FMFW pin in Iraq

Story by Cpl. Joel A. Chaverri

3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq — Nine Sailors with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing received their Fleet Marine Force Warfare device in a ceremony held here Feb. 3.

The newly pinned Sailors are part of a larger group of 154 who have qualified since August 2004.

“These numbers are way above average,” said Command Master Chief German E. Fiesco, 3rd MAW. “In the rear, we qualify around 8 to 10 per month.”

The majority of those who earn the pin are corpsmen and religious program specialists because of their constant interaction with the Corps.

In order to qualify for the pin, Sailors train in various areas of Marine Corps fundamentals.

“They have to learn field communication, land navigation, weapons handling, Marine Corps history, and physical fitness,” said Fiesco. “Then they have to demonstrate their proficiency in each of the areas by taking a test and going before an evaluation board.”

This training adds to the Sailors’ ability to

perform their jobs and builds rapport with the Marines.

“Before this program existed, many of the corpsmen in Marine units were considered a liability,” said Fiesco, a 45-year-old native of Bogota, Colombia. “Now, corpsmen are more reliable, and can even lead other Marines.”

Being awarded the FMFW Warfare pin is a high honor for Sailors because it symbolizes their hard work and dedication to the Marine Corps.

“They basically train to be Marines,” said Fiesco. “This is not a normal part of the job, so everyone who gets the pin is going above

and beyond to earn it.”

The courses, tests and boards can be difficult, resulting in a program that can take up to six months to complete.

“Making the effort to earn this title shows the Marines in my unit that I’m dedicated to being the best,” said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class, Javier R. Esparza, squadron corpsman, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 265, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. “I feel that the Marine Corps has given a lot to me, and this is the least I can do to show my respect.”

## Locker helps Miramar families

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

“I don’t want to stare at your face *all* day—it’s time for me to go home,” joked the proper English-speaking Rita Riddick after taking another cigarette break.

Peggy Brandenburg just laughed at Riddick’s sarcastic remark, “Me either, let’s go.”

For the past ten years, Brandenburg and Riddick have been working together in a crowded, garage-like building without pay—and they love it.

The duo works side by side, eight hours a day, along with several other volunteers at the Miramar Food Locker. Over the years, they have collected various household items and food supplies for servicemembers at home and overseas.

“Our pay is when we give a Marine food for his family and he says, ‘all that for me?’ and the tears start welling up,” said Riddick, co-chairman, Navy Wives Club Association Food Locker. “The look on their faces is why we do what we do.”

The food locker, sponsored by the NWCA, started in 1989 when Brandenburg and her husband, who was serving in the Navy, started gathering materials for holiday baskets to hand out to Marines and Sailors.

When they were finished, they found themselves with a profusion of extra food and supplies. They used two old Navy wall lockers to put all the leftovers in, which quickly became filled.

“The girls from the NWCA decided to bring in a can of food at each meeting to fill

the lockers in case anyone ever needed it,” said Brandenburg. “We ended up having too much food and not enough space.”

Over the years, the two small lockers eventually made their way into a spacious warehouse, packed with enough food and supplies to last through any disaster.

In the back of the warehouse, the shelves are piled high with various canned goods, baking supplies, diapers and other commodities. Freezers full of perishable items like meat and milk also line the walls. Children’s clothes and furniture are kept in yet another room.

Brandenburg and Riddick receive their supplies and money to purchase these resources from various local businesses and individuals. The food locker even received a \$25,000 donation once during Christmas.

“It’s the retired servicemembers who have given us all of these donations,” explained Brandenburg. “It’s a whole cycle of helping one another. That’s what we’re doing here—giving back.”

If a Marine, Sailor or family member needs support, they can contact a family readiness officer, who will refer them to the food locker.

According to Brandenburg, anyone seeking to utilize the food locker can do so in complete anonymity.

“You don’t have to worry about anyone else finding out you came here, because everything is confidential. If I see you on the street, I won’t say hi until you say hi,” Brandenburg joked.

# Workshop gives teachers knowledge

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Armed with a camera and hundreds of questions, Monte Marshall, a counselor at Timpview High School in Spanish Fork, Utah, came to California prepared.

“Why do you like the Marine Corps? What about going to college? Do you enjoy your job?”

Marshall, along with dozens of other educators from Utah and Orange County, Calif., visited the air station Jan. 27 to gain first-hand information about the Marine Corps that they’ll share with their students back home.

Before the Educators’ Workshop, many of the visiting teachers and counselors, like Marshall, did not have any knowledge about the military.

“I was completely naïve to the military before this workshop,” said Marshall. “As a counselor, I was pretty much one-sided. I never knew anything about the military, so I never considered advocating this as an option to my students.”

Marshall, a Spanish Fork native, was brought up with very negative stereotypes concerning the military. He was raised in a very traditional family where both of his parents went on to college right after high school. Marshall followed in their footsteps.

After visiting the footprints that have transformed so many lives at Marine Corps

Recruit Depot San Diego, Marshall’s outlook on the Marine Corps has changed.

The educators started off their weeklong tour on the same yellow footprints many Marines first stood on at the depot. Over the next couple of days, the teachers and counselors received a behind-the-scenes peak into Marine Corps boot camp, including an opportunity to talk to some of the recruits.

“I talked to one recruit there and he told me that the Marine Corps has changed his life for the better,” said Patrick Clampitt, a counselor at Corona High School (in Newport Beach, Calif). “My dad was in the Marines, but talking with these recruits and other Marines has given me great insight that I normally wouldn’t have unless I took a tour like this.”

When the educators arrived at Miramar, they had a question and answer session with a diverse group of Marines, with ranks ranging from lance corporal to colonel.

Following the discussion, the two buses full of educators headed toward the flight line to talk with some of the pilots and view the station’s aircraft. Many of the counselors, like Shan Hashimoto, had never seen a CH-53E Super Stallion up close.

“I didn’t know much about the aircraft here or military before the workshop,” said Hashimoto, a counselor at Farrington High School in Hawaii. “We hardly ever have recruiters come onto our campus, but now that



**Patrick Clampitt, a counselor at Corona High School, asks 1st Lt. Baret Bailey, Naval Air Training Operational Procedures Standardization Officer, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, about the CH-46 during an Educators’ Workshop Jan. 27 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Clampitt plans on telling his students about the positive options offered by the Marine Corps when he returns to his school. Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones**

I personally know more about the Marine Corps and the education that you can still receive once you join, I will definitely encourage more of my students to consider the Marines as an option.”

According to Sgt. Jeff L. Davis, recruiter, Recruiting Substation Mission Viejo, Calif., the Educators’ Workshops significantly assist his recruiting needs.

“A lot of teachers don’t know much about the Marine Corps and are given bad advice on what we do,” explained Davis. “These

workshops are in their favor and ours. Now kids can ask their teachers about the Marine Corps and find out more information about us and consider the Marines as an option.”

Counselors like Marshall couldn’t be happier to tell their students about the Marine Corps.

“This whole experience was eye-opening,” he said. “When I talk to my students about the Marines, I am going to tell them about the confident young men and women that I have met during this tour.”

## BALLISTIC continued from page 4

Not only does the eyewear protect from blast injuries, it helps protect the eye from the sun, dust and allergens.

“There is so much dust and dirt around here that small foreign bodies are common, which in turn cause mild abrasions,” said Cohen. “Additionally, the allergen levels here are quite high and different from what we are accustomed to in the states, so we see a bit of allergic conjunctivitis.”

Daniel also said they are still collecting feedback about the eyewear and to contact him via e-mail if you have any suggestions.

“We want to continue to improve the options,” said Daniel. “We want to protect their eyes and vision as much as we want to protect everything else, if not more.”

*Editor’s Note: This story was produced in cooperation with Jerry Helzner whose complete story on ballistic eyewear is available in the February 2005 issue of Ophthalmology Management magazine.*



Log on to: [www.motomail.us](http://www.motomail.us).

# Vets cope with more than bullet wounds

Story by Cpl. Jess Levens

MCRD San Diego Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Twenty-eight year old Cpl. Bradley A. Collier described death: “I closed my eyes and all the noises faded away, and all the pain stopped.

“It was bright. I didn’t see angels, but I saw the light. It wasn’t bright like the desert sun. It was more like moonlight beaming down on me. My platoon sergeant’s screams sounded like they were miles away, but when he slapped me, I opened my eyes and all the pain came back.”

Collier touched death four times Aug. 13, 2004 after taking a sniper’s bullet and rocket-propelled grenade shrapnel in Iraq. Four times his heart stopped beating; his vital signs stopped registering.

The infantryman from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, was carried off the battlefield after a four-and-a-half-hour firefight. Now, halfway around the globe, plagued with multiple injuries and diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Collier’s new unit is Medical Holding Platoon at Naval Medical Center San Diego, commonly known as Balboa.

## GOING DOWN

Recalling his last moments in combat, Collier said a radio was strapped to his back as he took a knee in a seemingly safe place. He was passing word to another platoon when an AK-47 round entered the back of his left shoulder and mushroomed into his lung, leaving him paralyzed in a faced-up fetal position - hearing and seeing, but frozen and not breathing.

“Ugh, that ‘pop!’” Collier recalled. “I remember laying on my back just looking up in the worst pain ever. Imagine taking a sledgehammer to the back of your shoulder and driving railroad ties in your spine.”

Navy corpsmen rushed in, dodging bullets to tend to the fallen one. As a platoon mate dragged Collier to safety, the docs rushed to cut away his blood-soaked gear.

“RPGs were going off all around,” said Collier. “By the time they got me to the Humvee I was pretty much in my boots and boxers. I could hear rounds hitting the side of the truck while they worked on me. Tink-tink-tink-tink! Staff Sgt. Castillo slung his rifle over his back and shielded my body.”

Collier faded in and out on the truck while the docs tried to stop his bleeding and keep him breathing.

“Breathing got harder and harder,” said Collier. “Every time I closed my eyes I saw that light. It was so easy to just give up and let go, but every time I faded, someone slapped me and woke me up.”

While a doc examined the bullet wound, Collier heard someone yell, “Oh no!” - never a good thing to hear in a condition like Collier’s. The corpsman discovered another wound on the other side of Collier’s back.

Collier said he was lucky to feel the pain: “It hurt like hell, but at least I could feel it. I knew if I couldn’t feel the pain, I was about to die. I lost a lot of good friends in that desert. (Lance Cpl.) John Collins - he was my best, best friend ... He didn’t even have a chance to feel the pain.”

The docs patched him up and the Humvee sped away. After a chest tube and having half of his lung removed, Collier found himself at Balboa - his twelfth hospital since he went down.

## THE MINI-MARRIOT

“This place is nice compared to the others,” said Collier with his thin physique sprawled out on a thick, American flag comforter. “I call it the mini-Marriot.”

Collier pressed the pause button on his wireless PlayStation controller to give the grand tour: a walk-in closet, a TV with a VCR and DVD player, a full bathroom and a kitchen area.

At the medical center, Collier undergoes acupuncture, physical therapy, water therapy and psychological therapy. He can’t quite stand up straight, and he walks with a slight limp, but he said it’s a big improvement.

“The first time I put my feet on the ground was at the hospital in Germany,” said Collier, who lost more than 25 pounds of muscle weight. “I was hunched over like an old man. They wanted me to use a wheelchair, but I refused.”

His father, Rex Collier, added, “We saw Bradley at Thanksgiving, and it was pretty tough. No father likes to see his son hurt. As a concerned parent, I had been dreading this all along, and when it happened, it came as a shock. After all the different hospitals, it sounds like they are taking good care of him at Balboa.”

## THE DISORDER

Apart from Collier’s physical ailments, he said the most frustrating problem has been the hidden scars: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

According to the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, “PTSD is a psychiatric disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing life-threatening events such as military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, abuse (sexual, physical, emotional, ritual) and violent personal assaults like rape. People who suffer from PTSD often relive the experience through nightmares and flashbacks, have difficulty sleeping, and feel detached or estranged, and these symptoms can be severe enough and last long enough to significantly impair the person’s daily life.”

“What really kills me is that I used to be so locked on and strong,” said Collier. “Now even loud noises freak me out. If the toilet seat drops or my doorbell rings, my heart jumps. I constantly look behind me and sit with my back to a wall.”

He gingerly stood and walked to his window. He wore a white T-shirt and sweats because his doctors feel that military uniforms may further spark stress episodes.

“See those Navy League towers outside?” he asked as he peered through the blinds. “I constantly look out there, and I picture snipers in those towers, or I see Marines storming the rooftops. The doctors say my mind is still in a heightened state of alert.”

Marine Corps leaders are aware of this disorder, and they want all Marines to understand it as veterans of foreign wars return from combat.

“PTSD is one of the biggest concerns we have in the Corps,” said Col. Ana R. Smythe, commanding officer, Headquarters and



**Military doctors have deemed Cpl. Bradley A. Collier’s war wounds to be so serious that he is unable to continue serving in the Marine Corps. He is likely to receive a medical retirement, and when he is healthy enough, he will go home to his family and future wife in Nashville. Photo by Cpl. Jess Levens**

Service Battalion. Collier and other war-wounded Marines are administratively attached to H&S Bn., though they reside at Balboa. “It’s one area that we aren’t very familiar with. We do a hell of a job repairing physical wounds, but these mental wounds are completely different.”

Smythe said some of PTSD’s problems exist through the “hardcore” mindframe: “We can handle it. It’s part of our ethos to just deal with problems, so Marines don’t like to tell people they have PTSD.”

She said symptoms aren’t instantly apparent and there is usually a three- to four-month meltdown period.

“Some people’s personalities change. They can become violent or aggressive, and some just suffer from depression. It’s different with each person,” said Smythe. “Right now the Marine Corps is coming up with a training program to help Marines understand PTSD, and (the program) will give advice on how to help Marines who are in garrison after suffering combat stress.

“I lived during the Vietnam War. Then, nobody knew about PTSD and these mentally damaged vets were just released into the world. So many of these homeless people on the streets are Vietnam vets suffering from PTSD,” Collier said.

“I’ve talked to retired vets who have PTSD and one told me he still finds himself low-crawling down his hallway some nights. It’s really a big problem. A lot of times Marines who have PTSD are afraid to tell anyone because they think it can affect their records or promotions. But there is nothing wrong with telling someone. The first step to beating PTSD is to understand it.”

## MOVING ON

Collier recently left the hospital to go to Aspen, Colo., with Lance Cpl. Jeremiah Anderson, another wounded Marine who

suffers from PTSD. The all-expenses paid trip comes courtesy of a charity group called Challenge Aspen, which gives mile-high ski trips to wounded vets.

After more than 180 patrols in Iraq and multiple firefights, Collier’s leaders promoted him to corporal, combat meritoriously. His exploits also warranted a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with the combat-distinguishing device, and he received the Purple Heart Medal after his wounds. But Collier said the promotion to corporal is the most meaningful, and being a noncommissioned officer holds a special meaning to him.

“For me, the NCO blood stripe means a lot,” said Collier. “It was given to NCOs for their bloodshed and sacrifice. I left a lot of blood in Iraq, and now I really know it’s special.

“When I joined the Corps, I wanted the toughest, dirtiest job I could find. Of course I knew death was a possibility, especially in the infantry. But you never really count on a sniper’s bullet hitting you from behind.”

Collier can no longer serve in the Corps because of his wounds, and medical retirement seems most likely. After he is medically stable enough, he will go home to his family and future wife, Kelly, in Nashville.

“I just can’t do it anymore,” said Collier. “It really bothers me that I’m not what I used to be, but I did my part.”

Rex Collier agreed: “It will be nice to have him home again. My son did his duty for this country. I just can’t wait to have him back and help him adjust to a normal life again.”

For Marines like Collier and Anderson, their physical wounds will heal, and with research and understanding, they have a better chance to overcome PTSD. Those who never tell anyone about having the disorder have a significantly smaller chance to recover. For now, adjusting to a normal life is the battle.

Miramar Movies

The Station Auditorium is located in building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies free of charge. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, contact 577-4143 or log on to [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com).

**Friday:**  
4:30 p.m. Fat Albert (PG)  
6:30 p.m. Meet the Fockers (PG-13)  
8:45 p.m. Spanglish (PG-13)

**Saturday:**  
6:30 p.m. Fat Albert (PG)  
8:30 p.m. Meet the Fockers (PG-13)

**Sunday:**  
1 p.m. Lemony Snicket’s Unfortunate Events (PG-13)  
6:30 p.m. Special Advanced Screening

**Wednesday:**  
6:30 p.m. Beyond the Sea (PG-13)

**Thursday:**  
2:00 p.m. Shrek 2 (PG-13)  
6:30 p.m. White Noise (PG-13)

Horse Riding Club Dinner

The Flying Hooves Riding Club will conduct a Membership Round-up Dinner at MCAS Miramar Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. inside the LINKS House, located at Bldg. 2273. Learn more about the riding club, meet other horse enthusiasts and contribute ideas about activities you would like to see the club plan in 2005. Door prizes will be awarded and bringing a new member increases you chances of going home with a great door prize.

Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office is located in building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain’s Office at 577-1333.

**Sunday:**  
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service  
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist  
**Wednesday:**  
7 p.m. Baptist service  
**Monday-Friday:**  
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass  
**Jewish:**  
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD  
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Tax Center Assistance

The MCAS Miramar Income Tax Center is now available to help servicemembers prepare and electronically file their federal and state income taxes for free. Hours are 9 a.m to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call (858) 577-1040.

East Gate Closure

Due to a construction project, the Miramar East Gate will have modified traf-fic patterns Feb. 14 for a period of 7-10 days. Monday through Friday, 5-8 a.m., the East Gate will be open to inbound traffic only and from 3:30-6 p.m. the gate will be open for outbound traffic only. From midnight to 5 a.m. the gate will be closed. Cone patterns will be in place. Drive with caution.

Sandtrap Restaurant

The Sandtrap Restaurant has been tem-porarily closed, pending repairs. The ser-vices, including breakfast, lunch and bar lounge operation, have been moved to the Enlisted Club. The Enlisted Club is now open to all patrons during breakfast and lunch.

Team Marine Baseball Tryouts This Weekend

Team Marine Baseball will hold tryouts Feb. 12-13 at 9 a.m. at the Camp Pendleton main side softball fields. Team Marine is the top baseball team in the Marine Corps and competes in one of Southern California’s premier wood-bat leagues. For more infor-mation, call (760) 725-6408.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal’s Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1995 Dodge Neon	CA/3KGZ374	1993 Plymouth Voyager	4HVP334
1989 Subaru GL	CA/1REE135	Unk. Mazda 626	CA/1STD385
Unk. Honda Prelude	No Plates No VIN	1993 Ford Escourt	CA/3EKK843
Red Sea King Boat	No Plates No ID	1998 Honda DX	CA/2YBS381
Hydra Sports Boat	FL/CZ39M	Unk. Honda Accord	GA/77693
Unk. VW Jetta	No Plates No VIN	1990 Ford Mustang	CA/2TAX992

